



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5211.6
N3/N5
21 Jan 2016

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5211.6

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CODE WORD, NICKNAMES, AND EXERCISE TERMINOLOGY SYSTEM

Ref: (a) CJCSM 3150.29E

Encl: (1) Permanent First Word Assignment
(2) Sample Request and Justification Letter

1. Purpose. To issue policy and procedures for nicknames and exercise terminology used by Navy activities. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety. This revision includes:

- a. Updated reference section.
- b. Included procedures for request.
- c. Included responsibilities for Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Director, Operations and Plans (N31) to receive, check, and process requests up to Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Joint Staff Support Center (JSSC).
- d. Updated the permanent assigned word assignments for non-combatant command agencies under OPNAV.
- e. Updated the NICKA request and justification sample.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5511.37D.

3. Discussion. Reference (a) establishes standard administrative policy for the assignment and management of code words, nicknames, and exercise terms. This instruction provides nickname and exercise term guidance and the points of contact for code word management.

4. Policy. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Commander, Pacific Fleet; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command; and Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command process nicknames and exercise terms through their respective combatant commanders. All other Navy activities must process requests for nickname and exercise term assignments through the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), OPNAV (N31). Approved nicknames and exercise terms are located in the Navy sections of the Joint Staff Code Word, Nickname, and Exercise Term System (NICKA) database at the National Military Command Center. The system for establishing nicknames and exercise terms is authorized only by the Joint Staff. NICKA references can be found on the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) <https://www.gmc.nmcc.smil.mil/jopes/nicka/>.

5. Nicknames

a. A nickname is a combination of two separate unclassified words, assigned an unclassified meaning that is employed for unclassified, administrative, morale or public information purposes. The first word of the nickname and or exercise term must begin with one of the combination letters of the alphabet assigned, per enclosure (1). Nicknames may be assigned to actual, real-world events, projects, movement of forces or other non-exercise activities. They may involve information of any classification, but the nickname and the description or meaning it represents must be unclassified. A nickname is not designed to achieve a security objective (a compilation of nicknames and representative meanings must also be unclassified).

b. Nicknames should not be confused with code words. A code word is a single word assigned a classified meaning by appropriate authority to ensure proper security concerning intentions, and to safeguard information pertaining to actual, real-world military plans or operations classified as confidential or higher, once activated. Navy code words are managed by OPNAV Director, Special Programs Division (OPNAV (N89)), per reference (a). Neither the first nor second word of a nickname may be a code word or be close in spelling or pronunciation to one.

c. A nickname must not be used as a substitute for an established procedure set forth in other official publications, such as voice call sign assignment, coordinate identification, or code word assignment.

6. Exercise Terms. An exercise term is a combination of two words that are selected using the same criteria as a nickname. Two non-code words, usually unclassified, used exclusively to designate that the test, drill, or exercise they are assigned to is not a real world operation. Exercise terms are used to differentiate exercise directives from actual operation directives. An exercise term and description or meaning it represents can be classified or unclassified. If using classified exercise terms to simulate actual use of Department of Defense code words, follow code word security procedures throughout the planning, preparation, and execution of the test, drill, or exercise to ensure realism.

7. Procedures

a. Permanent First Word Assignment. Major users are permanently assigned first words in enclosure (1) to avoid duplication. Applicable activities must use these for all originating nicknames and exercise terms. Authorized Navy first words are chosen from blocks of letters assigned to Navy, listed in enclosure (1). All nicknames which are exercise terms will follow the criteria for propriety given in subparagraph 7d.

b. Requests for First Word Assignments. Requests for first word assignments will be made in writing by the initiating activity (see subparagraph 8a) to OPNAV (N31), who will ensure its validity in conjunction with the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) nickname administrator. Nicknames and exercise terms must be approved before use. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Joint Staff Support Center are the approving authority.

c. Second Word Assignment. The second word is used in combination with the permanently assigned first word to identify a specific nickname or exercise term. Users with first word assignments can suggest a second word to OPNAV (N31) in writing. All second words must be approved by the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) before use. Unlike first words,

second words are not restricted by alphabet. The first and second words combined must meet criteria in subparagraph 7d.

d. Criteria for Selecting First and Second Words. Nicknames and exercise terms must not contain words that are in the categories listed subparagraphs 7d(1) through 7d(8).

(1) Close in spelling or pronunciation to a code word.

(2) Any two-word combination voice call sign found in Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Publication (JANAP) 119, Joint Voice Call Sign Book.

(3) Exotic words, trite expressions, or well-known commercial trademarks.

(4) Express a degree of aggression inconsistent with traditional American ideals or current foreign policy.

(5) Convey anything offensive to good taste or derogatory to a particular group, sect, or creed.

(6) Convey anything offensive to U.S. Allies or other free-world nations.

(7) The words "project", "exercise", or "operation" in combination or alone.

(8) Words that can be used as one or two words, such as "moonlight."

e. Reissuing Nicknames and Exercise Terms. A specific nickname or exercise term may not be used under a different meaning for 2 years after termination by OPNAV (N31). If a project or exercise is reactivated it may be reassigned its original nickname or exercise term upon approval by the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center). In such cases, a Roman numeral suffix will be added to the original word combination to indicate reactivation of the nickname or exercise term.

f. Requesting Changes. To initiate, cancel, or reactivate a nickname or exercise term, send a written request to OPNAV

(N31) through the activity point of contact (POC) (see subparagraph 8a) using the format in enclosure (2).

8. Responsibilities

a. OPNAV (N31) must:

(1) Forward all proposed nicknames and exercise terms to the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) for review, avoiding conflicts between NICKA terms and terms used in JANAP 119.

(2) Coordinate first word assignments via the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) code word officer OPNAV (N89), to ensure first words do not resemble code words.

(3) Provide word assignments to the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) for registration of all approved nicknames and exercise terms into the NICKA database.

(4) Provide an updated list of Navy nicknames and exercise terms from the NICKA database upon written request.

b. Commanders requiring regular nickname or exercise term use may request permanent first word assignment. Activities with permanent first words must designate a single POC for each first word assignment.

(1) Upon receipt of instruction, commanders of activities assigned permanent first words must forward the name, office code, and phone number of the nickname and exercise term POC for each first word assigned, to OPNAV (N31).

(2) Process, monitor, and update all nicknames and exercise terms originated by the represented activity. New nicknames and exercise terms will be registered with the Joint Staff Support Center via OPNAV (N31) in writing per enclosure (2). Provide the nickname and exercise term, unclassified description, organization code, and a POC with phone number. Send an initial e-mail to OPNAV (N31) to verify availability of proposed nickname or exercise term, followed by the written request. POCs can be found on SIPRNET at <https://www.gmc.nmcc.smil.mil/jopes/nicka/>.

(3) Maintain a record of all active nicknames and exercise terms originated by the represented activity for internal control and verification of the NICKA database.

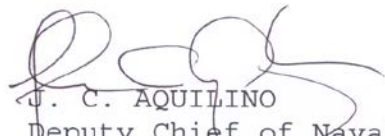
(4) Answer the revalidation request initiated by OPNAV (N31) annually.

(5) Serve as the liaison between the represented activity and the OPNAV (N31) POC.

9. Requests for Meanings of Nicknames and Exercise Terms.

Inquiries concerning the classified meaning of a nickname or exercise term should be sent to the office or unit responsible for the program, project, or exercise involved. Major users and their permanent first word assignments are listed in enclosure (1).

10. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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PERMANENT FIRST WORD ASSIGNMENT

<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
CHAIR	CNO N095	N
CHALK	OPNAV N89	A
CHALLENGE	OPNAV N81	A
CHANNEL	OPNAV N89	A
CHARADE	OPNAV N2/N6F2	A
CHARGER	OPNAV N96	N
CHECK	OPNAV N09N	N
CHEESE	CNO N2/N6	N
CHERRY	CNO N2/N6	N
CHIPPED	ONI	A
CHOCOLATE	OPNAV N2/N6I	A
CHURCH	CNO N095	N
CINNAMON	OPNAV N2/N6F2	A
CIRCUIT	CNO N2/N6	A
CITADEL	CNO N09	N
CLAMP	OPNAV N09N/NCIS	N
CLARINET	CNO N2/N6	A
CLASSIC	OPNAV N2/N6F32	A
CLAYMORE	OPNAV N971	N
CLIPPER	OPNAV N31	A
CLUSTER	ONI	N
GUILDER	OPNAV N89	A
GULF	DUSN (P)	A
GUSTY	OPNAV N89	A
GYPSY	OPNAV N89	A
LIBERTY	OPNAV N31	N
LIGHTNING	OPNAV N2/N6I	N
LILAC	COMNAVSUPSYSCOM	N
LIMIT	DUSN (P)	A
LINEAR	OPNAV N09N	N
LINK	OPNAV N89	A
LION	ONI	A
LIQUID	COMSPAWARSSYSCOM	N
OSPREY	OPNAV N89	A
OUTLAW	CNO N095	N
OUTPOST	OPNAV N84	N
OVERBID	OPNAV N31	N
OVERTONE	OPNAV N89	A
OXEN	OPNAV N97	N
OXIDE	OPNAV N89	A
OZONE	OPNAV N89	A

Enclosure (1)

<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
RABBIT	OPNAV N09G/IG	N
RADIANT	OPNAV N2/N6F	A
RADIUS	OPNAV N89	A
RAIDER	OPNAV N2/N6I	A
RAVEN	OPNAV N89	A
REEF	OPNAV N2/N6F2	A
REGAL	OPNAV N2/N6F2	A
RETRACT	OPNAV N89	A
REWARD	OPNAV N89	A
RUBY	OPNAV N89	A

A = Listed first word is active and in use

N = Word not in use but data can be retrieved for review

* Word available for assignment

NOTE: COMNAVSUPSYSCOM: Commander Naval Support Systems
Command

DUSN (P): Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Policy)

ONI: Office of Naval Intelligence

CNO N09: Vice Chief of Naval Operations

OPNAV N09G/IG: Naval Inspector General

OPNAV N09N: Director, Naval Criminal Investigate Service

OPNAV N84: Director, Test & Evaluation, Technology
Requirements

CNO N095: Chief of Navy Reserve

CNO N2/N6: Deputy CNO for Information Dominance

OPNAV N2/N6F: Director, Warfare Integration

OPNAV N2/N6F2: Director, Battlespace Awareness

OPNAV N2/N6F32: Counter-C4ISR, Targeting & Elec. & Cyber
Warfare

OPNAV N2/N6I: Deputy Director, Naval Intelligence

OPNAV N31: Director, Ops & Plans

OPNAV N81: Director, Assessments

OPNAV N89: Director, Special Programs

OPNAV N96: Director, Surface Warfare

OPNAV N97: Director, Undersea Warfare

OPNAV N971: Sea Base Strategic Deterrence

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FIRST WORD BLOCKS ASSIGNED TO NAVY

CG through CL
GS through GZ
LG through LL
OS through OZ
RA through RF
RS through RZ

SAMPLE REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION LETTER

Project nickname: (U), (C), (S) "NICKA NAME REQUESTED"

UNCLASSIFIED MEANING: Explain

CLASSIFIED MEANING: If applicable

PROJECT DETAILS: (e.g., Gathering intel to determine an effective way of training.)

CURRENT STATUS: "Active, re-activate, cancelled"

REMARKS: As applicable (any additional information deemed appropriate)

COGNIZANT AUTHORITY OF PROJECT: POC requesting (name, agency and phone number) (e.g., CAPT. Doas I. Say, ONI (703) 345-6789)

POINT OF CONTACT: POC submitting (name, office code and phone number) (e.g., LT. Work B. Done, N311 (703) 123-4567)

DATE: DDMMYYYY

Derived from: Multiple Sources

Declassify on: DDMMYYYY